

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /026 W
-----109972 281218Z /41

P 281144Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4724

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2154

FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, US, SU

SUBJECT: COUNTRY ACTION PLAN FOR SUDAN

REF: (A) STATE 139160, (B) STATE 147897

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING INCLUDES SEVERAL SPECIFIC AND GENERAL COMMENTS ON DEPARTMENT'S ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN REF B. EMBASSY GENERALLY CONCURS WITH DEPARTMENT ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SOME SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CHANGES WE WISH TO SEE MADE AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO ASSURE ACHIEVEMENT USG HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN SUDAN. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING LANGUAGE CHANGES IN BUREAU DRAFT WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO ASSURE BETTER BALANCE OR ACCURACY:

A. IN FIFTH SENTENCE PARA 1 REF B SUBSTITUTE RIGOROUSLY FOR BRUTALLY WHICH WE BELIEVE IS OVERLY EMOTIONAL WORD TO USE PARTICULARLY AT BEGINNING OF REPORT.

B. IN EIGHTH SENTENCE PARA 1 SUBSTITUTE SECURITY FOR MILITARY; COURTS WERE DESCRIBED AS SPECIAL SECURITY COURTS
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WHICH WERE SEPARATE FROM BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY JUDICIAL SYSTEMS. THOUGH PRIMARILY MILITARY IN TERMS OF STAFFING, THEY WERE NOT COMPLETELY SO.

C. RE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WE UNDERSTAND SUDANGOV SCREENS ALL APPLICANTS FOR EXIT VISAS. HOWEVER, AS FAR AS WE AWARE ONLY PEOPLE WHOSE TRAVEL IS RESTRICTED ARE KNOWN

COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS BELIEVED TO BE ACTIVELY PLOTTING AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

D. IN LAST SENTENCE PARA 2 REF B, CHANGE QUOTE HAVE BEEN RELEASED UNQUOTE TO QUOTE ARE BEING RELEASED UNQUOTE FOR GREATER ACCURACY. SAME CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE IN LAST SENTENCE PARA 4.

E. SUGGEST SENTENCE ON CORRUPTION IN PARA 3 BE MODIFIED TO READ QUOTE WHILE THERE IS SOME CORRUPTION BOTH WITHIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR IN SUDAN, IT IS MINIMAL BY AFRICAN STANDARDS AND IS NOT OF SUFFICIENT MAGINTUDE TO UNDERMINE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT. UNQUOTE.

F. IN LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4 INSERT QUOTE HAS BEEN AND UNQUOTE BEFORE QUOTE WOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED UNQUOTE.

2. IN COMMENTING GENERALLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SUDAN BEYOND POINTS CONTAINED REF B, WE WOULD NOTE THAT WHILE SUDAN IS NOT DEMOCRACY NEITHER IS IT A TYRANNY AND OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH REGIONAL NORMS. MOREOVER, SITUATION IS AFFECTED BY INTERNAL AND FOREIGN THREATS WHICH ARE REAL AND NOT IMAGINED. THERE APPEARS TO BE GENUINE RESPECT FOR RULE OF LAW AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY AND THIS HAS ACTED AS INHIBITING FACTOR LIMITING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. ALSO BELIEVE SOME MENTION SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE MADE OF RELATIVELY GOOD RECORD UNDER NIMEIRI REGIME OF ASSURING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WHICH IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY CONSIDERING RECORD OF PREVIOUS GOVXENMENTS HERE DURING TIME OF SOUTHERN CIVIL WAR.

3. REGARDING MANNER BY WHICH WE SHOULD SEEK ACCOMPLISH HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN SUDAN WE WOULD FIRST NOTE, AS MENTIONED IN REF B, THAT SUDANESE HAVE RECENTLY EMERGED QUITE ANGRY-- BOTH OFFICIALLY AND PERSONALLY-- AT SOVIET ATTEMPTS INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ALSO SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT HOWEVER MUCH WE HAVE DISCUSSED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE DURING PAST YEAR, WE HAVE DONE VERY LITTLE SO FAR FOR SUDANGOV. THEREFORE, WE QUESTION WHETHER AT THIS STAGE WE SHOULD USE THESE LEVERS AGAINST REGIME FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS WEAKNESSES. FACT IS, UP TO NOW THERE LITTLE SUBSTANCE BEHIND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE LABELS. FINALLY, GIVEN OUR GROWING INTERESTS HERE AND SUDAN'S RELATIVELY GOOD RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO SUDAN SEEMS UNWARRANTED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2154

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4. NEVERTHELESS EMBASSY AGREES WITH USG POLICY OUTLINED
REF A AND HAS NO QUARREL WITH PURSUING HUMAN RIGHTS
OBJECTIVES IN SUDAN. OUR APPROACH WOULD BE (A) TO FIND
OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAISE AND ENCOURAGE SUDANGOV ACTIVITIES.
FOR EXAMPLE, IN CERTAIN ASPECTS WOMEN'S RIGHTS, FREEDOM OF
RELIGION, TREATMENT OF REFUGEES, AND OTHER AREAS SUDANGOV
RECORD GOOD ENOUGH TO WARRANT PRAISE. REF B INDICATES OTHER
AREAS WHERE THIS COULD BE DONE, ALBEIT SOME CARE WOULD BE
NEEDED. (B) ALSO BELIEVE GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS MADE
BY SENIOR USG OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER CONVEY
MESSAGE WHICH IS WELL UNDERSTOOD HERE. THIS, AS MUCH AS
ANY WAY, EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATES USG CONCERN OVER HUMAN
RIGHTS TO SUDANGOV. WE DON'T HAVE TO DRAW PICTURES FOR
SUDANESE TO REALIZE THAT FORWARD MOVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS
AREA WILL BE WELL RECEIVED BY USG. WE WOULD FIND OCCASIONS
TO REINFORCE PUBLIC MESSAGE IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS
WITH LOCAL LEADERS.

5. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO IMPROVEMENTS
IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. IN MEANTIME OUR MILITARY AND
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, WE HOPE, WOULD BECOME MORE
SUBSTANTIAL THAN NOW. THIS WOULD ALLOW, SAY IN A YEAR, A
REVIEW OF SUDANESE PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. IF AT
THAT TIME STERNER MEASURES ARE CALLED FOR, WE WOULD HAVE
BETTER STANDING TO CRITICIZE AND PERHAPS HELP SUDANGOV MOVE
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TOWARD IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.
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